

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04131 010949Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 /030 W  
-----021136 011104Z /23

R 010831Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO USDOC WASHDC  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3740  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 4131

ATHENS FOR RTDO; BRUSSELS FOR STATE OFFICES

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: BEXP, BENC, SY  
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TRADE OPPORTUNITY: CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CITY  
CENTER OF ALEPPO: MAJOR PROJECT

1. PRIVATE BUSINESS SOURCE HAS INFORMED EMBASSY OF PLAN BY MUNICIPALITY OF ALEPPO (SYRIA'S SECOND LARGEST CITY, POP. APPROX. ONE MILLION) TO CONSTRUCT A NEW CITY CENTER IN BAB EL-FARAZ DISTRICT. DEMOLITION OF EXISTING STRUCTURES UNDER WAY. PROJECT WOULD ENCOMPASS 100,000 SQ.M. (PLUS 30,000 SQ.M. UNDERGROUND PARKING), INCLUDING HOUSING AND OFFICE BLOCKS, COMMERCIAL STORES, TWO HOTELS, BANKS, AND CINEMAS. APPROX. COST 250,000,000 DOLS. NO FORMAL TENDER HAS BEEN LET, AND AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THERE IS NO TENDER BOOK; MUNICIPALITY DOES HAVE MASTER PLAN FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO WHICH PROPOSALS MUST CONFORM.

2. MUNICIPALITY INVITES INTERESTED FOREIGN FIRMS TO CONSIDER PROJECT ON TURNKEY BASIS, INCLUDING DESIGN, EXECUTION, AND FINANCING. US FIRMS SHOULD COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH AHMED ISMAIL, GOVERNOR OF ALEPPO, OR ENG. AHMAD MOUSSA, DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL  
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COMMITTEE, MUNICIPALITY OF ALEPPO, ALEPPO, SYRIA, WITH COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE TO U.S. EMBASSY DAMASCUS.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: CITY OF ALEPPO HAS COMMITTED ITS PRESTIGE TO THIS MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, DESPITE ACUTE SHORTAGE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE. DEMOLITION WORK IS WELL UNDER WAY AND VAST SPACES HAVE BEEN

TORN OPEN IN THE HEART OF THE OLD CITY (SITE OF PROJECT).  
FINANCING IS KEY TO SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION OF OFFERS.  
WE UNDERSTAND THE MUNICIPALITY ENGAGED IN LONG AND ULTIMATELY  
UNSUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS WITH KUWAIT TO UNDERWRITE  
PROJECT.  
PELLETREAU

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009